

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of District 12 Councilmember Derrick Boazman

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## Chocolate City Strip Club Demolished

City Councilman Derrick Boazman vows to continue effort to clean-up and revitalize Metropolitan Parkway

City Councilman Derrick Boazman joined state lawmakers, community activists and officials from Atlanta Metropolitan College for the demolition of the former Chocolate City nightclub in August.

The demolition was held August 13th at the intersection of Casplan Avenue and Metropolitan Parkway.

"I was pleased to take part in this ceremony," said Councilman Boazman, who has led the effort to reduce the number of strip clubs along Metropolitan Parkway. "This is part of our ongoing push to revitalize the neighborhoods in this area." State Sen. Vincent Fort, D-Atlanta and State Rep. Douglas Dean, D-Atlanta also attended the demolition ceremony.

The building that housed Chocolate City is being torn down to make way for the campus expansion of Atlanta Metropolitan College. Metropolitan Parkway was named after the school, which acquired the property that housed the nightclub. The college plans to erect a new campus entrance and build additional facilities on the site.

Boazman convinced a Florida bank to sell the 11-acre piece of property to the community rather than accept a \$1 million deal with another strip club owner.

Boazman has bemoaned the number of adult clubs located along the Metropolitan Parkway corridor since before taking office.

"Residents in the surrounding area felt that this establishment was a nuisance and should be shut down," Boazman said. "We are making great headway in cleaning up Metropolitan Parkway of blight and businesses that cater to prostitution and drugs."

In early 2000, Chocolate City was stripped of its liquor license after selling alcohol to a minor.



Councilman Boazman was joined by several state and city leaders for the demolition of the old Chocolate City Strip Club

## Boazman joins fight against Cancer at 2002 American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of South Fulton



City Councilman Derrick Boazman (Right) was selected Leadership Chairman of the 2002 American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of South Fulton County. Boazman joined City Councilwoman Carla Smith (Left) during the Relay.

**C**ouncilman Derrick Boazman recently served as Leadership Chairman of the 2002 American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of South Fulton.

The 2002 American Cancer Society Relay For Life of South Fulton took place May 3rd and May 4th at Tri Cities High School in East Point.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society.

During the event, teams of people gathered at schools, fairgrounds, and parks and took turns walking or running laps. Each team tried to keep at least one team member on the track at all times. Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day, cancer will be eliminated.

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life brings together neighbors, friends, work associates, and families to celebrate those who have survived cancer and remember those who have not. Relay for Life, the signature event of the American Cancer Society, has raised over \$712 million for cancer research, educational and awareness programs, support groups and advocacy.

"This issue is personal to me because in 1994, I lost my Aunt Evelyn to cancer," Boazman said. "Ms. Bernice Vickerson, one of my dearest neighbors who was so much a part of my development, died of breast cancer on September 29, 1999.

It is in memory of these two strong and courageous women that I have decided to be an advocate on this issue and to help save the lives of many others through education, intervention and prevention."

"Progress in research is encouraging, yet the battle is still not won," Boazman said. "We must not give up until this affliction is 100 percent curable."

## Boazman Wants Live Oak Landfill Closed

**C**ouncilman Derrick Boazman joined State Senator Vincent Fort and State House Representative Doug Dean, Rep. Georgianna Sinkfield and Rep. Nan Orrock for a public rally against Waste Management Corp's attempts to keep the Live Oak Landfill open.

The rally and informational meeting was held on August 27, 2002 at the Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church, 3665 Forest Park Road, SE. Dozens of residents turned out for the event.

The meeting was sponsored by the South DeKalb Neighborhoods Coalition and the South River Gardens Neighborhood Association.



On Tuesday, March 12, 2002 Boazman and others addressed officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at a public hearing about the odor coming from the Live Oak Landfill.

Governor Roy Barnes requested that the landfill operators install 46 new gas extraction wells, which remove noxious smells from such waste, by the end of July. He also issued an administrative order requiring the landfill be closed by December 2004.

Waste Management, owner and operator of the Live Oak landfill, has now appealed a state ruling ordering the company to close down the facility by 2004. State environmental officials filed the administrative order in July in response to complaints from residents about the foul odors emitting from the landfill.

"We are upset that Waste Management has filed an appeal of the Governor's decision with no consideration given to the residents and the odors they have to live with day and night.

"This area has suffered enough. There are more than six landfills in this immediate area," Boazman said. "This environmental racism must stop now!"

## *Councilman Boazman Honors retiring AUC Presidents During Special Ceremony*



Atlanta City Councilmember Derrick Boazman honored the four retiring presidents of the Atlanta University Center in May: Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Jr. – Clark Atlanta University, Dr. Delores E. Cross – Morris Brown College, Dr. Audrey F. Manley – Spelman College, and Dr. Louis W. Sullivan – Morehouse School of Medicine.

## 2002 Atlanta City Council joins Councilman Boazman in passing significant pieces of legislation....

**A**tlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman played an intrugal role in several pieces of significant pieces of legislation including:

- 02-R-0161 A Resolution by Councilmembers Debi Starnes, Carla Smith, Ivory Lee Young, Jr., Cleta Winslow, Natalyn Archibong, Anne Fauver, Howard Shook, Clair Muller, Felicia A. Moore, C. T. Martin, Jim Maddox, **Derrick Boazman**, Ceasar Mitchell, Mary Norwood and H. Lamar Willis to add an urgent appeal in the City of Atlanta's legislative package, asking for the State of Georgia to provide sufficient funding and resources for the provision of supportive permanent housing for the Georgia's chronically mentally ill citizens.
- 02-O-0243 An Ordinance by Councilmembers Carla Smith and **Derrick Boazman** as Amended by Finance/ Executive Committee authorizing the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta, Georgia ("The Authority") and the City of Atlanta pertaining to the performance of certain public improvements by the Authority for the benefit of the City of Atlanta; transferring appropriations in the amount of \$3,680,000.00 to fund a portion of said public improvements; and for other purposes.
- 02-O-1148 An Ordinance by Councilmembers Mary Norwood, H. Lamar Willis, Anne Fauver, Cleta Winslow, Carla Smith, Natalyn Archibong, C. T. Martin, Clair Muller, Debi Starnes, Ceasar Mitchell, Jim Maddox, **Derrick Boazman**, Howard Shook and Ivory Lee Young, Jr. to amend Chapter 74, Article V of the Code of Ordinances by adding Section 74-173 so as to define an unclean vacant lot as a nuisance per se; and for other purposes.
- 02-O-0864 An Ordinance by Councilmember **Derrick Boazman** to create the Crescent Hills/Hammond Park Village Housing Enterprise Zone; and for other purposes.
- 02-R-0363 A Resolution by Councilmembers Felicia A. Moore, Mary Norwood, **Derrick Boazman**, C. T. Martin, Carla Smith, Jim Maddox, Natalyn Archibong, Ivory L. Young, Jr., Anne Fauver, Cleta Winslow, Howard Shook and H. Lamar Willis urging the Fulton County Commission and the Fulton County Tax Commissioner to terminate the practice of selling tax liens against owner-occupied residential properties to third parties; and for other purposes.





## Councilman Boazman negotiates end to “housing nightmare” for students at area college

**A**tlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman led a meeting with representatives of Bauder College regarding poor housing conditions on its Atlanta campus.

The poor housing conditions were brought to Boazman's attention by students living in the Habersham Apartment complex, which serves as student housing to the college.

Ceilings have collapsed in at least three of the 52 apartments at Habersham Court, off Piedmont Road. Water drains from second-story bathrooms into ground floor and basement apartments.

"These are some of the worse housing conditions I have seen on any college campus," Boazman said.

"Bauder College should be ashamed and embarrassed by the conditions these students are living in."

City inspectors ordered school officials in April to repair collapsed and rotting ceilings and leaking drains.



*City Councilman Derrick Boazman and Michael Langford speaking outside of the Habersham Apartment Complex in this Summer. Bauder College agreed to improve the living conditions at the complex after Boazman and several local leaders stepped in to negotiate a compromise.*

Councilmember Boazman, members of the United Adult Leadership Conference and the Atlanta Chapter of the SCLC asked that the students be moved off campus and that repairs be done immediately. Many of the students living in Habersham Court are from out of town.

Boazman and other community leaders had been in active negotiations with the legal counsel representing Bauder College for several days. Days after the meeting with college executives, a compromise agreement was reached to relocate the students and improve the living conditions at the apartment complex.

Bauder College is a private two-year institution. More than 700 students are enrolled at Bauder, and 180 of them live in the apartments at Habersham Court, according to school officials.

## New nature preserved purchased in Districts 1 and 12

**A**tlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman and other council members joined Mayor Shirley Franklin and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to celebrate the City's purchase of 57 acres of woodlands in a diverse urban neighborhood in Southeast Atlanta that will become a nature preserve. The purchase was made possible by the City of Atlanta's \$25 million Greenway Acquisition Project to acquire and protect targeted streamside areas in perpetuity.

The Greenway Acquisition Project's intent is to acquire "buffer" areas that protect streamsides from development, thus providing a vegetated filter for surface runoff. — The intent is to protect water quality

by reducing erosion and non-point source pollution. Councilman Boazman, who was the leader of this project and whose district contains most of the preserve, is elated over what he hopes will be the first of many such greenspace initiatives in Southeast Atlanta.

"This is going to be a magnificent preserve," he says. "It's going to be an asset that ties one side of the district to the other in a significant way. We (the city) quietly worked with TPL and we've been able to acquire the land before developers could get at it. We have been blessed on the south side in that a lot of people don't know what a beautiful part of Atlanta this is, so we have been able to protect land that makes a difference in our community."

# Southside residents and community leaders hold a prayer vigil in response to stabbing of police officer

Incident stemmed from an undercover prostitution sting

**A**tlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman and Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington were joined by Southside community leaders and residents for a prayer vigil on July 12th at the corner of Deckner Ave., SW and Beatie Ave., SW.

The vigil was held in response to the stabbing of a 21-year veteran Atlanta police officer, who was conducting an undercover sting on prostitution in the area.

Councilman Boazman and community residents say they will do everything they can to put a stop to crime on the Southside.

"This community has worked too hard to turn around and we want the criminal elements out there to know that this incident will not stop nor deter our efforts to put an end to crime in these neighborhoods," Boazman said. "We stand 100 percent in support of the Atlanta Police Department in their on-going efforts to free this neighborhood of the dogma of prostitution."



(Top Photo) Councilman Derrick Boazman is joined by City Councilman H. Lamar Willis and Police Chief Richard Pennington at Perkerson Park for a vigil.

The police officer at the time was conducting an undercover sting on prostitutes when he picked up the 18-year-old woman near Metropolitan Parkway. When the man revealed that he was a police officer, the woman pulled out a knife and stabbed him, police said. The officer then fired one shot into her torso. The woman was charged with aggravated assault and solicitation of sex.

The incident occurred in the officer's undercover vehicle, which was parked in the 700 block of Deckner Avenue, police said.

"We as Southside residents must do our own part to curb the problem of prostitution in our neighborhoods," Boazman said. "There are many things we can do including, reporting suspicious activities to the police."



(Top Photo) Dozens of residents turn out in support of the Atlanta Police Department's crime-fighting efforts.



## District 12 Ministerial Alliance sponsors scholarship program for area students



*(Left Photo) Atlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman, Mayor Shirley Franklin, District 12 residents and the District 12 Ministerial Alliance accept a check from HiFi Buys for the Sherry Lyons-Williams Memorial Scholarship. (Right Photo) Boazman is pictured with the 2002 recipients of the Sherry Lyons-Williams Scholarship during a breakfast at Sylvia's Restaurant in Atlanta in their honor. Pictured with Boazman is a representative of HiFi Buys Amphitheatre, Clay Schell.*

**A**tlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman, members of the District 12 Ministerial Alliance and Mayor Shirley Franklin joined the husband of the slain officer in accepting scholarship endowments. House of Blues Concerts, promoter of HiFi Buys Amphitheatre and HiFi Buys - a Tweeter Company, presented over \$50,000 to neighborhood educational scholarship organizations in April.

City Councilman Derrick Boazman, Mayor Shirley Franklin, Vincent Treat Williams - husband of slain officer Sherry Lyons-Williams, former Police Chief Beverly Harvard, representatives of the local Neighborhood Planning Units (NPUs) and pastors from the District 12 Ministerial Alliance were present to receive the donations from HiFi Buys.

The three separate donations are being used for the Sherry Lyons-Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund, the University of Georgia's fund in memory of Officer Lyons, and to the music departments of South Atlanta High School, Carver High School and Sylvan Middle School.

Following the tragic death a year ago of Atlanta Police Investigator Sherry Lyons-Williams during a drug raid in the Lakewood community, the District 12 Ministerial Alliance, Councilmember Boazman, HiFi Buys Amphitheatre along with the University of Georgia - Williams' alma mater - created the Sherry Lyons-Williams Scholarship Funds.

Her husband was asked to represent the funds, which honors police officers lost in the line of duty and assist in the education of students who reside in the NPU's in the area where she was killed.

Headed by Reverend Daniel Dickson, the District 12 Ministerial Alliance is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt church-based organization that will administer the scholarship program.

The University of Georgia created a separate fund of the same name to provide scholarship support for deserving students enrolled in the criminal justice program and is awarded to individuals under-represented in the criminal justice field. Selection of the recipients will be made by members of the criminal justice faculty and is based on the potential of recipients in the field rather than past academic performance.

In addition to the scholarships, Paul Ryan, regional director of HiFi Buys, presented a total of \$5000 to the Lakewood Oversight Committee for the music departments of South Atlanta High, Carver High and Sylvan Middle School.



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News You Can Use



## Sherry Lyons-Williams Scholarship recipients join Councilman Boazman for meet and greet with Grammy Award-Winning Artist Usher

Grammy award-winning artist Usher joined Atlanta City Council man Derrick Boazman, representatives from the HiFi Buys Amphitheatre, The District 12 Ministerial Alliance and the Sherry Lyons-Williams Memorial Scholarship recipients for a meet and greet reception on July 14<sup>th</sup> before the start of the artist's Evolution 8701 Tour with Nas and Faith Evans.

The event was held at Club Ingles located at the HiFi Buys Amphitheatre.

The scholarship recipients also joined Usher at a fan appreciation party immediately following the reception.

The three recipients of the District 12 Ministerial Alliance HiFi Buys Sherry Lyons-Williams Scholarship were selected in April from Neighborhood Planning Units X, Y and Z in District 12. The 2002 recipients are: Shelby Camille Clemons from NPU-X, Pierre Gaither from NPU-Y and Char-Shenda D. Crawford from NPU-Z.



*Atlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman and the Sherry Lyons-Williams Memorial Scholarship recipients met Grammy Award-Winning Artist Usher at a backstage appreciation party at the Hi-Fi Buys Amphitheatre.*

"We are grateful to Usher for wanting to recognize these extraordinary young people," Boazman said. "The three scholarship recipients were very excited about the opportunity to meet personally with the entertainer and to hear from one of their own peers about the importance of getting a good education."

## Councilman Boazman Cooks up Something Special at the 2002 Real Men Cook Father's Day Charity event

City Councilman Derrick Boazman joined a host of local and national celebrities participating in the REAL MEN COOK, a 10-city nationwide event designed to celebrate the positive accomplishments of urban men. The program was held Father's Day, June 16 at Georgia Railroad Depot.

Proceeds from 'REAL MEN COOK' were donated to non-profit groups, who will use the funds to build and sustain community improvement programs. The Atlanta groups chosen as this year's recipients were Frank Ski Kids Foundation and the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia.

"I am pleased to participate in any event that honor dads and their contributions to their families and the community at large," Councilman Boazman said. "Plus, we got an added benefit of helping non-profits who work year-round to help the less fortunate." U.S. Congressman John Lewis also participated in the event.

Nationwide, over 10,000 people participated in last year's cook-off, which raised over \$150,000 for charities.

Resources Associates International started REAL MEN COOK in 1989. The Chicago-based group works to strengthen the black community through uplifting events.



Top Left Photo: Atlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman presented proclamation to several out-going presidents of Atlanta University Center. The proclamations

were given for outstanding service to the schools of higher education over the years. Top Right Photo: Boazman speaks in honor of the works of the late Joe Criscuolo and his wife Goldy (pictured standing next to the podium). The two activists have taken stands on many issues for women, minorities, immigrants and the homeless. Bottom Right Photo: Boazman joined Mayor Shirley Franklin and the Trust for Public Land



to celebrate the City's purchase of 57 acres of woodlands in Southeast Atlanta that will become a nature preserve. The purchase was made possible by the City of Atlanta's \$25 million Greenway Acquisition Project



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